REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-27 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3-9 are currently amended. Claims 10-27 are new. No new matter is introduced.

The Examiner objected to claim 3. While the Examiner's contention that one ofd skill in the art would not know what "substantially" means in the context of claim 3 is traversed, claim 3 has been amended to expedite prosecution. The claims also have been amended to put them in a form more consistent with U.S. practice.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by He et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0001450). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites, "[a] method, comprising: ... determining a step vector depending on said measure of interference, wherein an increasing measure of interference continuously reduces a size of the step vector and determining the step vector comprises: generating a first step vector adapted to improve the filter coefficient vector, as if the second signal is not affected by interference; generating a second step vector depending on said measure of interference; and selecting the step vector from the first and second step vectors, wherein the selected step vector is the smallest of the first and second step vectors." The Examiner points to Figure 2 and paragraphs 46 and 47 of He. Paragraph 46 of He states that "[h]owever, if Sgen [any near end talker signal] is present, error signal 46 cannot be used to perform an adaptive process because the adaptive filter 28 uses the error to adapt, and with the presence of Sgen, error signal 46 is no longer just the error." Thus, in He, the adaptive process is stopped when interference is present. In contrast, claim 1 recites "an increasing measure of interference continuously reduces a size of the step vector." In addition, the is no mention in paragraphs 46 and 47, and no indication in Figure 2 of He of generating first and second step vectors and selecting a smallest of the first and second step vectors. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by He. Claims 3-8 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies, as well as because of the novel and non-obvious combinations claimed therein.

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Independent claim 9, as amended, recites, "[a] device, comprising: ... means for determining the step vector depending on the measure of interference, wherein an increasing measure of interference continuously reduces a size of the step vector and the means for determining the step vector includes: means for generating a first step vector adapted to improve the filter coefficient, as if the second signal is not affected by interference; means for generating a second step vector depending on the measure of interference; and means for selecting a smallest of the first and second step vectors as the determined step vector." The Examiner again relies on Figure 2 and paragraphs 46 and 47 of He. As noted above, He stops the adaptive process in the presence of interference and there is no mention of generating two step vectors and selecting the smallest of the two step vectors. Accordingly, claim 9 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by He. Claims 10-14 depend from claim 9 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies, as well as because of the novel and non-obvious combinations claimed therein.

New independent claim 15 recites, "[a] device, comprising: ... a step vector generator configured to: generate a first step vector as if the second signal is not affected by interference; generate a second step vector depending on the generated indication of interference; and select a smallest of the first and second step vectors; and a coefficient updater configured to iteratively update the filter coefficient vector by the selected step vector, wherein coefficient updating continues when the indication indicates an increased level of interference." As noted above, He stops the adaptive process in the presence of interference and there is no mention of generating two step vectors and selecting the smallest of the two step vectors. Accordingly, claim 15 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by He. Claims 16-21 depend from claim 15 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies, as well as because of the novel and non-obvious combinations claimed therein.

New independent claim 22 recites, "[a] communication system, comprising: ... a step vector generator configured to: generate a first step vector as if the second signal is not affected by interference; generate a second step vector depending on the generated indication of interference; and select a smallest of the first and second step vectors; and a coefficient updater configured to iteratively update the filter coefficient vector by the selected step vector, wherein coefficient updating continues when the indication indicates an increased level of interference.

As noted above, He stops the adaptive process in the presence of interference and there is no mention of generating two step vectors and selecting the smallest of the two step vectors. Accordingly, claim 22 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by He. Claims 23-27 depend from claim 23 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies, as well as because of the novel and non-obvious combinations claimed therein.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC

_/Timothy L. Boller/_____
Timothy L. Boller
Registration No. 47,435

TLB:jrb

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 5400
Seattle, Washington 98104
Phone: (206) 622-4900
Fax: (206) 682-6031

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